# Mountain Weather Forecast

## Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 29 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 29 Dec 2023 at 02:05

**Confidence:** High for unsettled and often windy conditions through this period. Lower for rain or snow details and freezing levels.

**Headline for Friday 29 Dec 2023:** Spells of rain or snow. Cold and windy.

**Mountain weather hazards on Friday 29 Dec 2023**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Blizzards**<br>Low Likelihood | **Heavy persistent snow**<br>Low Likelihood | **Storm force winds**<br>No Likelihood |
| **Gales**<br>Medium Likelihood | **Severe chill effect**<br>High Likelihood | **Poor visibility**<br>Medium Likelihood |
| **Thunderstorms**<br>Low Likelihood | **Heavy persistent rain**<br>No Likelihood | **Strong sunlight**<br>No Likelihood |

| **Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Time | | | | | |
| 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 |
| | | | | | |
| Light snow | Heavy snow | Heavy snow | Heavy snow | Heavy snow | Light snow |
| Precipitation probability | | | | | |
| 60% | 60% | 60% | 60% | 60% | 60% |

**Forecast for Friday 29 Dec 2023**

**Weather:** Mostly cloudy with showery outbreaks of rain, falling as snow above 700m at first but lowering to 400m during the afternoon. Some of the showers could be heavy, especially in the afternoon and evening, with a small chance of lightning.

**Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m:** 30%. Best chance in east.

**Low cloud and visibility:** Frequent cloud above 600m, with some patches down to 400m. Cloud rising to higher slopes for longer spells over eastern fells. Away from cloud, mainly good visibility but occasionally poor in rain and down to a few hundred metres in snow.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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# Mountain Weather Forecast

**Forecast for Friday 29 Dec 2023**

| Height (m) | Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 | 00:00 |
| **900** | 55/65 W | 40/48 W | 33/42 W | 27/34 W | 25/31 W | 23/29 W | 16/20 W |
| **600** | 47/58 SW | 33/43 W | 29/40 W | 20/27 W | 16/23 W | 17/24 W | 12/17 W |
| **300** | 15/45 W | 14/35 W | 14/33 W | 9/22 W | 5/18 W | 8/21 W | 5/14 W |
| **Valley** | 15/42 W | 16/37 W | 14/30 W | 9/22 W | 7/20 W | 8/19 W | 6/14 W |

| Height (m) | Temperature / Feels Like (°C) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 | 00:00 |
| **900** | -0/-10 | 0/-9 | -0/-9 | -1/-9 | -2/-10 | -2/-10 | -2/-8 |
| **600** | 2/-6 | 2/-6 | 2/-6 | 1/-6 | -0/-6 | -0/-6 | -0/-5 |
| **300** | 5/1 | 4/-0 | 4/-0 | 2/-1 | 2/-1 | 2/-2 | 2/-1 |
| **Valley** | 7/3 | 6/2 | 6/2 | 5/2 | 5/2 | 4/2 | 4/2 |
| **Freezing Level*** | 900m | 900m | 800m | 700m | 600m | 600m | 600m |

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

**Meteorologist's View**

A bitterly cold day on the tops with frequent sleet or snow showers. Snow and ice underfoot on high slopes.

**Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023**

**Weather:** Wintry showers dying out overnight. A dry start but sleet or snow will soon spread in from the southwest in the morning, turning to rain on all but the highest tops. This turning heavy for a while then clearing east in the afternoon followed by blustery showers, falling as snow above 600m.

**Maximum wind:** South or southeast 10-15mph increasing 30 to 40mph gust 55mph, easing slightly in afternoon.

**Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m:** 90% early morning but soon becoming 20% or less.

**Low cloud and visibility:** Good visibility early morning but quickly worsening as snow arrives, becoming poor with extensive cloud above 500m. Cloud lifting and breaking in the afternoon but some patches down to 500m in showers.

**Temperature:** **Valleys:** Plus 1C rising to 6C.
**At 800m:** Minus 2C rising to Plus 1C in afternoon, then 0C later.
**Freezing level:** 500m rising above summits for a time in afternoon, then 800m later.

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# Mountain Weather Forecast

**Ground Conditions Supplement**

Date: Thursday 28 December. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:4 or 5. Full report: A light covering of snow has settled overnight above 800m deposited on gale force, predominantly SW, winds. Owing to the strength of the wind, however, much of the Lakeland fells remain clear of snow up to, and including, summit level with the majority of snow lying in sheltered spots and hollows and especially on steep north and east facing slopes above 850m where drifts of up to 10cm can be found (although even this depth is exceptional). At midday, the snow was soft and thawing so walkers out on Friday may find little left. Conversely, temperatures are forecast to drop after dark with the showers falling as snow at altitude so walkers out on the highest peaks on Friday may find more snow combined with harder snow and ice, so should also be prepared for this eventuality. Today, however, the main hazard was, once again, the strong and gusty nature of the wind especially when combined with drizzle, rain and, especially unpleasant, horizontal hail. This, together with saturated ground and the wet, slippery rocks underfoot, (sometimes covered with soft snow), made for challenging conditions. Many walkers were, sensibly and quite understandably, turning back early leaving the summit for another, far more pleasant day! Despite the mild valley temperatures, the summit temperature was not far off zero - plus 3 degrees C - with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) below at minus 8 degrees C just after midday. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. As mentioned, there is the strong possibility of hard snow and ice forming at altitude overnight, so walkers out on the highest peaks on Friday should carry microspikes and those attempting steep and exposed routes, such as the Helvellyn edges, should consider crampons and ice axes. Do keep up to date with the latest forecast before setting out. Goggles are strongly recommended to lessen the sting of windblown hail. Temperature: Plus 2.6 C, Maximum wind speed 57.0 mph, Wind chill: minus 7.6C, Average wind speed: 44.0 mph.

Issued at: 02:05 on Fri 29 Dec 2023


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